

REMARKS

Claims 21-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 23, 29 and 30 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Election of Species Requirement

Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 26-35 drawn to a process characterized by removing the separation-assisting compound semiconductor layer by chemical etching, and Species 2, Figures 11-25. Claims 26, 27, 29 and 33 read on Species 2, and claim 26 is generic. The elections are made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all the claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

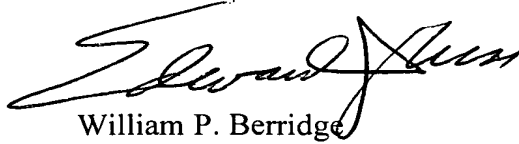
Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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